

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VICTOR 00531 091535Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 DHA-05
IO-13 /071 W
-----031125 091852Z /43

P R 091130Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0528
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L VICTORIA 0531

FOR AMBASSADOR LE MELLE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SE
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT RENE LIKELY TO ATTEND OAU MEETING IN LUSAKA

1. PRESIDENT RENE TOLD ME SEPTEMBER 9 THAT IN ALL PROBABILITY HE WILL ATTEND SPECIAL OAU HEADS OF STATE MEETING CONVENING IN LUSAKA OCTOBER 5. HIS PLAN WOULD BE TO DEPART VICTORIA FOR DAR ES SALAAM OCTOBER 2 ON NEWLY INAUGURATED WEEKLY AIR TANZANIA SERVICE. ITINERARY FOR RETURN TRIP HAS NOT YET BEEN THOUGHT THROUGH, ALTHOUGH RENE SAID HE MIGHT COME BACK VIA NAIROBI.

2. YOU MAY WISH TO FACTOR IN THE ABOVE IN TERMS OF FORMULATING PLANS FOR YOUR NEXT VISIT TO SEYCHELLES. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, YOU WERE CONSIDERING BEING HERE TO COINCIDE WITH THE VISIT OF THE USS LA SALLE AND USS BOWEN (OCTOBER 5-8). NOT ONLY IS THE PRESIDENT LIKELY TO BE ABSENT IN THAT PERIOD, BUT FOREIGN MINISTER SINON WILL NOT YET HAVE RETURNED FROM NEW YORK. HE IS DUE BACK OCTOBER 11. ADDITIONALLY, IF PRESIDENT RENE GOES TO LUSAKA, HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY FONMIN PERMSEC D'OFFAY.

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3. FROM A POLITICAL STANDPOINT, RENE'S PROJECTED TRAVEL PLANS ARE QUITE INTERESTING. ON THE FIRST LEVEL, THEY SUGGEST HE NOW HAS SUFFICIENT CONFIDENCE IN THE STABILITY OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND THE LOYALTY OF HIS COLLEAGUES TO RISK BEING AWAY. ON A SECOND LEVEL, THEY POSE THE QUESTION OF WHO WILL BE SELECTED TO BE IN CHARGE IN HIS ABSENCE. WHOEVER RENE CHOOSES IS LIKELY TO GAIN CONSIDERABLE PRESTIGE AS FIRST AMONG

EQUALS IN THE CABINET. WITH SINON ALSO OUT OF THE COUNTRY, AND
HENCE UNAVAILABLE TO THE TAKE OVER, THE LOGICAL CANDIDATE WOULD
BE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE FERRARI.
FELDER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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